

**United States District Court**  
FOR THE **FILED**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
2014 JUL 17 P 2:19  
**VENUE: SAN FRANCISCO**

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

V.

**CR 14 306**

LUKE D. BRUGNARA

**WHA**

DEFENDANT(S).

**INDICTMENT**

VIOLATION:

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341—Mail Fraud; Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343—Wire Fraud; Title 18, United States Code, Section 1623—False Declaration Before Court; Title 18, United States Code, Sections 982(a)(1)(c), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c)—Forfeiture Allegation

A true bill.

Nancy J. Peterson  
Foreman

Filed in open court this 17<sup>th</sup> day of

July 2014.

Rose Maher

ROSE MAHER  
Clerk

NANDOR T. VADAS  
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Bail, \$ No process

## DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT

BY: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ INDICTMENTMatter Sealed: ☐ Juvenile ☐ Other than Juvenile
☐ Pre-Indictment Plea ☒ Superseding ☐ Defendant Added  
☒ Indictment ☒ Charges/Counts Added  
☐ Information

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location (City)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT Northern California (SF)  
DISTRICT OF Divisional OfficeName and Office of Person  
Furnishing Information on  
THIS FORM Melinda Haag  
☐ U.S. Atty ☐ Other U.S. Agency  
Phone No.Name of Asst.  
U.S. Attorney Doug Sprague / Ben Kingsley  
(if assigned)

## PROCEEDING

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (&amp; Title, if any)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

☐ person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court  
(give name of court)☐ this person/proceeding transferred from another district  
per (circle one) FRCP 20, 21 or 40. Show District☐ this is a reprosecution of charges  
previously dismissed which were  
dismissed on motion of:☐ U.S. Atty ☐ Defense☒ this prosecution relates to a  
pending case involving this same  
defendant. (Notice of Related  
Case must still be filed with the  
Clerk.)☒ prior proceedings or appearance(s)  
before U.S. Magistrate Judge  
regarding this defendant were  
recorded underSHOW  
DOCKET NO.

CR 14-0306 WHA

MAG. JUDGE  
CASE NO.

3 14 70731 JSC

Place of  
offense San Francisco County

CASE NO.

USA vs

CR 14 306  
Defendant: Luke B. Brugnara

Address:

WHA

☐ Interpreter Required Dialect:Birth Date 10/18/1963 ☒ Male ☐ Alien  
☐ Female (if applicable)

Social Security Number

## DEFENDANT

Issue: ☐ Warrant ☐ Summons

Location Status:

Arrest Date 5/28/2014 or Date Transferred to Federal Custody

☒ Currently in Federal Custody☐ Currently in State Custody☐ Writ Required☐ Currently on bond☐ Fugitive

Defense Counsel (if any): Erik Babcock

☐ FPD ☒ CJA ☐ RET'D☐ Appointed on Target Letter☐ This report amends AO 257 previously submitted

## OFFENSE CHARGED - U.S.C. CITATION - STATUTORY MAXIMUM PENALTIES - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS

Total # of Counts 6

Set	Title & Section/Offense Level (Petty = 1 / Misdemeanor = 3 / Felony = 4)	Description of Offense Charged	Count(s)
	SEE ATTACHED		

***United States v. Luke D. Brugnara, CR 14-0306 WHA  
Superseding Indictment  
Attachment to Penalty Sheet***

***Maximum Penalties (Each Count)***

Counts One through Three: Wire Fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343)

Imprisonment: 20 years

Fine: \$250,000 (or twice the value of the property involved in the offense,  
whichever is greater)

Supervised Release: 3 years

Special Assessment: \$100

Restitution: To be determined by the Court

Count Four: Mail Fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1341)

Imprisonment: 20 years

Fine: \$250,000 (or twice the value of the property involved in the offense,  
whichever is greater)

Supervised Release: 3 years

Special Assessment: \$100

Restitution: To be determined by the Court

Counts Five and Six: False Declaration Before Court (18 U.S.C. § 1623)

Imprisonment: 5 years

Fine: \$250,000

Supervised Release: 1 year

Special Assessment: \$100

Restitution: To be determined by the Court

FILED

2014 JUL 17 P 2:19

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MELINDA HAAG (CABN 132612)  
United States Attorney

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

LUKE D. BRUGNARA,

Defendant.

NO. CR 14-0306 WHA

**WHA**

VIOLATION: Title 18, United States Code, Section  
1341—Mail Fraud; Title 18, United States Code,  
Section 1343—Wire Fraud; Title 18, United States  
Code, Section 1623—False Declaration Before Court;  
Title 18, United States Code, Sections 982(a)(1)(c),  
and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c)—  
Forfeiture Allegation

SAN FRANCISCO VENUE

SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

Introductory Allegations

1. Defendant, Luke D. BRUGNARA, was an individual who resided in San Francisco, California.
2. Victim 1 was an individual who resided in the State of New York. Victim 1 was an art dealer.

The Scheme to Defraud

3. From approximately March 2014 through at least approximately May 2014, BRUGNARA devised and executed a material scheme to defraud Victim 1, and to obtain money and

property from Victim 1 by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by omitting and concealing material facts. BRUGNARA executed his scheme by, among other things, agreeing to purchase, accepting delivery of, and maintaining possession of several pieces of art for which he had agreed to pay a total of approximately \$11,000,000 based on the false representation that he intended to and would pay for that art, and then refusing to pay for the art or to return it.

Manner and Means of the Scheme

4. In furtherance of his scheme to defraud and to obtain property, BRUGNARA made many material misrepresentations and omitted and concealed many material facts, including but not limited to the following:

- a. BRUGNARA falsely stated he intended to and would pay for the art;
- b. BRUGNARA omitted that he had almost no income, no assets, and no means to pay for the art he had agreed to purchase, and he omitted that he had a substantially negative net worth;
- c. BRUGNARA falsely stated he wanted to buy the art to place in a museum he was building;
- d. When the art was delivered to BRUGNARA's residence in the presence of Victim 1, BRUGNARA falsely told Victim 1 that he was not expecting Victim 1, that he was too busy to inspect the art at that time, and that he would call Victim 1 later to arrange a time to inspect the art; and
- e. After taking possession of the art and refusing to pay for it, BRUGNARA falsely claimed Victim 1 had given the art to BRUGNARA as a gift.

5. In furtherance of his scheme, BRUGNARA refused to return any of the art, only some of which eventually was seized by law enforcement.

**COUNTS ONE THROUGH THREE:** (18 U.S.C. § 1343 – Wire Fraud)

6. Paragraphs 1 through 5 are realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

7. On or about the dates set forth below, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendant,

LUKE D. BRUGNARA,

for the purpose of executing his material scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by omission and concealment of material facts, did knowingly transmit and cause to be transmitted the following wire communications in interstate commerce:

COUNT	DATE	ITEM WIRED
1	March 23, 2014	Email from BRUGNARA to Victim 1 stating BRUGNARA "... will buy all of the paintings and put them in my museum..."
2	March 24, 2014	Email from BRUGNARA to Victim 1 stating BRUGNARA wants "...all the art pieces...including the etchings and the bronzes..."
3	March 25, 2014	Email from BRUGNARA to Victim 1 stating "Thank you. I look forward to putting them in my museum."

**COUNT FOUR:** (18 U.S.C. § 1341 – Mail Fraud)

8. Paragraphs 1 through 5 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.

9. On or about April 5-7, 2014, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendant,

LUKE D. BRUGNARA,

for the purpose of executing his material scheme to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and by omission and concealment of material facts, did knowingly cause crates containing art to be sent and delivered by interstate carrier, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

**COUNT FIVE:** (18 U.S.C. § 1623 – False Declaration Before Court)

10. Paragraphs 1 through 5 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.

11. On or about June 17, 2014, in the Northern District of California, the defendant,

LUKE D. BRUGNARA,

while under oath in a proceeding before a court of the United States, did knowingly make a false material declaration, specifically falsely stating, on direct examination, as italicized below:

Q. Okay. So after you wrote [Victim 1] this e-mail, the discussion sort of transitioned into when

1 she was going to ship the art pieces to Seacliff; is that correct?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I took the e-mails that I got from her, and I sent them to the head of Sotheby's in New York,  
5 who's also the head of Bond Street and London, and I asked, you know, what's – you know,  
6 what's the value or – I don't have the specific email in front of me, but the essence of it was  
7 "How much would you sell these for, and what are they worth?" Just a simple valuation inquiry.  
8 *And I heard back that the de Koonings are not authentic, and they would not sell them as de*  
9 *Koonings, and the Degas – they would not sell the Degas because it's not authentic ....*

10 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1623.

11 **COUNT SIX:** (18 U.S.C. § 1623 – False Declaration Before Court)

12 12. Paragraphs 1 through 5 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.

13 13. On or about June 17, 2014, in the Northern District of California, the defendant,

14 LUKE D. BRUGNARA,

15 while under oath in a proceeding before a court of the United States, did knowingly make a false  
16 material declaration, specifically falsely stating, on direct examination, as italicized below:

17 Q. Okay. So after you wrote [Victim 1] this e-mail, the discussion sort of transitioned into when  
18 she was going to ship the art pieces to Seacliff; is that correct?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I took the e-mails that I got from her, and I sent them to the head of Sotheby's in New York,  
22 who's also the head of Bond Street and London, and I asked, you know, what's – you know,  
23 what's the value or – I don't have the specific email in front of me, but the essence of it was  
24 "How much would you sell these for, and what are they worth?" Just a simple valuation inquiry.  
25 *And I heard back that the de Koonings are not authentic, and they would not sell them as de*  
26 *Koonings, and the Degas – they would not sell the Degas because it's not authentic ... So when*  
27 *I had that information, I phoned [Victim 1], and I told [Victim 1] that, you know, these de*  
28

1 *Koonings are not authentic.*

2 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1623.

3 **FORFEITURE ALLEGATION:** (18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)(c), and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c))

4 14. Paragraphs 1 through 13 of this Superseding Indictment are hereby re-alleged and  
5 incorporated by reference as if set forth in full herein.

6 15. Upon a conviction of the offense alleged in Counts One through Four, the defendant,  
7  
8 LUKE D. BRUGNARA,  
9 shall forfeit to the United States all property constituting and derived from proceeds traceable to that  
10 offense, including but not limited to a sum of money equal to the amount of proceeds obtained as a  
11 result of the offense.

12 16. If any of said property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:  
13 (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;  
14 (b) has been transferred to, sold to, or deposited with a third person;  
15 (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;  
16 (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or  
17 (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;  
18 any and all interest defendant has in other property shall be vested in the United States and forfeited to  
19 the United States pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18,

20 //

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

25 //

26 //

27 //

28 //



1 United States Code, Section 982(a)(1)(c), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c) and Rule  
2 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

3  
4 DATED: July 17, 2014

A TRUE BILL.

5  
6 Nancy J. Peterson  
FOREPERSON

7  
8 MELINDA HAAG  
United States Attorney

9 J. Douglas Wilson  
10 J. DOUGLAS WILSON  
Chief, Criminal Division

11 (Approved as to form: nm / Rji)  
12 AUSAs Sprague and Kingsley